



Prostmdt #44
12/5/01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Dennis CVITKOVITCH, § Art Unit: 1642
Peter C.Y. LAU, and §
Yung Hua LI §

Serial No.: 09/833,017 § Examiner:

Filed: April 10, 2001 §

For: Signal Peptides, Nucleic Acid §
Molecules and Methods for §
Treatment of Caries §

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND
RESPONSE TO NOTICE TO FILE MISSING PARTS**

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Att'y Dkt. No.: 1889-00401
Client Ref. No.: 3110/0007
Date: September 17, 2001

Sir:

This paper is filed in reply to the "Notice to File Missing Parts of Nonprovisional Application," and prior to payment of the filing fees. Please enter the following amendments before finalizing the claims fees and prior to examination on the merits. Appendices are attached showing the changes that have been made to the originally filed specification, claims and drawings by boldface and underlining of the new text (or encircling the text on the drawings in red ink) and by striking through the deleted text.

In the Drawings:

Please substitute the enclosed 19 sheets of drawings, containing Figures 1 - 12 for the originally filed drawings.

In the Specification:

Under SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION, please replace paragraph [0005] with the following:

[0005] The invention relates to a compound that competitively inhibits binding of CSP [SEQ ID NO:4] to *S. mutans* histidine kinase [SEQ ID NO:6]. The compound is preferably a peptide or an antibody. The compound is preferably a derivative of [SEQ ID NO:3], a fragment of [SEQ ID NO:3] or a derivative of a fragment of [SEQ ID NO:3].

A1